

February 13, 2013

An Open Letter to Rep. John Frey and the Housing Committee
Connecticut House of Representatives
Hartford, Connecticut

c/o Dick Veltri
dick.veltri@cba.ct.gov

Dear Representatives,

I am writing you out of my concern for the deleterious effects of the housing bill 8-30G on the economic and social health of Connecticut towns. And I am writing in support of some of the amending bills being offered tomorrow by our representative, John Frey.

I am a member of the Ridgefield Architectural Advisory Committee and the Ridgefield Village District Committee. My academic training is in landscape architecture, architecture and planning.

First of all, I am totally in favor of developing affordable housing, of towns supporting housing opportunities for people of all income brackets, and for accessible housing for the elderly and handicapped. And I am completely in favor of well planned development.

The 8-30G law is not an effective means of promoting those goals. It is a neighborhood "buster;" it makes possible the destructive insertion of totally out-of-scale housing developments into cohesive, modest and pleasing neighborhoods. A case in point is a recent application in our town to insert a multi-story multiple housing project on approximately a one-third acre site on a quiet street of small single-family ranch houses. It threatens to cut a pleasant moderate income neighborhood in two and to completely sever the sense of neighborhood continuity. Not surprisingly, the neighbors are very upset.

I support John Frey's proposed bill to amend this law, in particular no. 6117 and no. 6121, 6122 and 6123. Together these proposals would go part way to limiting the damage created by this bill.

It would be even better to repeal 8-30G and start over to design a bill that promotes the building of affordable housing while building a sense of community and providing housing for the elderly, disadvantaged and disabled. A new bill should encourage development near town centers, near transportation and near facilities within walking distance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Helen Dimos
Ridgefield, Connecticut